

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 01145 051155Z

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 AGR-03 EB-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 DRC-01 L-02

EUR-10 IGA-01 AID-10 /071 W

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R 051130Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0501

C O N F I D E N T I A L 1145

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EAGR LY

SUBJECT: STAGNATION AT KUFRA AGRICULTURAL PROJECT

1. WHILE IN BENGHAZI ON 4 SEPT, EMBOFF STOPPED IN AT KUFRA AUTHORITY TO TALK WITH AMCITS WORKING THERE. WAS INFORMED THAT ALAN CRAIG CURRENTLY IN CONUS, AND THERE IS SOME SUSPICION AMONG HIS COLLEAGUES THAT IF LARG KEEPS HEAT ON OIL COMPANIES, PARTICULARLY IF THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT LARG WILL FORBID THE EXIT OF AMCITS FOR ANY REASON, CRAIG WILL REMAIN OUTSIDE LIBYA.

2. EMBOFF WAS INFORMED THAT KUFRA PROJECT IS MARKING TIME. THIS IS PARTLY TRUE BECAUSE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE THERE HAS DISRUPTED MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES, BUT PRIMARILY BECAUSE MOHAMMED KARA, ITS LIBYAN DIRECTOR, IS CURRENTLY WITH HIS AMERICAN-BORN WIFE IN TUCSON, ARIZONA. WORD AT THE AUTHORITY IS THAT KARA DOES NOT PLAN TO RETURN. SINCE RETURNING TO TRIPOLI, EMBOFF HAS LEARNED THAT RUMOR HERE HAS IT THAT KARA ABSCONDED WITH A LARGE SUM OF MONEY FROM KUFRA AND DEFINITELY DOES NOT PLAN TO RETURN. IN ADDITION TO KARA, THE NORWEGIAN CHIEF ENGINEER AT KUFRA HAS DEFINITELY

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PAGE 02 TRIPOL 01145 051155Z

DECIDED TO REMAIN OUTSIDE OF LIBYA.

3. IN SUM, KUFRA PROJECT APPEARS TO BE IN TROUBLE
AND WE WERE TOLD THAT PROJECTS WHICH SHOULD HAVE
BEGUN MONTHS AGO REMAIN STALLED WHILE MANAGEMENT IS
REORGANIZED AND THE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE REVIEWS PAST
MANAGEMENT DECISIONS FOR EVIDENCE OF MIS-MANAGEMENT.
JOSIF

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NNN

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